



The Ehlers e-Newsletter

For the Week of November 22, 2004 – HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Visit our website at <http://www.house.gov/ehlers>

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Unless a compromise is reached on legislation to reform the nation's intelligence system, Congress is not expected to reconvene for the remainder of the year. Thus, this will be the final issue of The Ehlers e-Newsletter for 2004 and the 108th Congress, unless Congress reconvenes. Happy Holidays from Congressman Ehlers and his staff!*

News from Congressman Ehlers ...

CONGRESS APPROVES FY2005 FUNDING BILL, FAILS TO AGREE ON INTELLIGENCE COMPROMISE – House and Senate members last weekend approved a \$388 billion appropriations bill funding a wide range of governmental agencies, completing Congress' work on appropriations bills for Fiscal Year 2005, although some technical corrections may be necessary. However, Congress members were not able to reach consensus on legislation to reform the nation's intelligence apparatus. Congress may reconvene if a compromise is reached, but if not, work in the 108th Congress is complete and the 109th Congress will convene in January 2005.

EHLERS EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION FUNDING – Saying he is "concerned and astonished" that Congress decided to cut funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF), Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers said he voted Saturday in favor of the FY 2005 Omnibus Appropriations bill "under protest." The legislation was approved by a 344-51 vote.

For more information, view the press release on our website:

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/112204NSFFunding.html

CONGRESS PASSES COMPROMISE VERSION OF EHLERS BILL TO COMBAT COSTLY ALGAL BLOOMS – The House of Representatives Saturday gave final approval to legislation sponsored by Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers that will renew and expand federal efforts to combat harmful algal blooms (HABs) – a costly environmental problem that plagues the nation's waterways and costs the U.S. economy tens of millions of dollars each year.

For more information, view the press release on our website:

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/112004AlgalBloomPassage.html

HOUSE OKS SPECIAL EDUCATION LEGISLATION RENEWAL – Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers joined his colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives in approving the renewal of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), H.R. 1350, which governs federal government special education programs.

For more information, view the press release on our website:

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/111904IDEAPassage.html

HOUSE, SENATE CONFEREES AGREE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION BILL – A bipartisan House-Senate conference committee Wednesday approved a final special education reform bill that will reauthorize the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and set in motion important reforms that will help teachers, parents and schools ensure every student with disabilities receives a quality education, Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers said.

For more information, view the press release on our website:

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/111704IDEAConferees.html

THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The U.S. House of Representatives is in recess.

Historical Tidbits

On Nov. 22 ...

1963 - U.S. President Kennedy was assassinated while riding in a motorcade in Dallas, TX. Texas Governor John B. Connally was also seriously wounded. Vice-President Lyndon B. Johnson was inaugurated as the 36th U.S. President.

1985 - 38,648 immigrants became citizens of the United States. It was the largest swearing-in ceremony.

1990 - U.S. President Bush, his wife, Barbara, and other congressional leaders shared Thanksgiving dinner with U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia.

On Nov. 23 ...

1945 - The U.S. wartime rationing of most foods ended.

On Nov. 24 ...

1987 - The U.S. and the Soviet Union agreed to scrap short- and medium-range missiles. It was the first superpower treaty to eliminate an entire class of nuclear weapons.

1993 - The U.S. Congress gave its final approval to the Brady handgun control bill.

On Nov. 25 ...

1783 - During the Revolutionary War, the British evacuated New York. New York was their last military position in the U.S.

1955 - In the U.S., the Interstate Commerce Commission banned racial segregation on interstate trains and buses.

1957 - U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower suffered a stroke.

On Nov. 26 ...

1789 - U.S. President Washington set aside this day to observe the adoption of the Constitution of the United States.

1861 - West Virginia was created (out of Virginia) over a dispute of slavery. West Virginia was against slavery.

1941 - U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a bill establishing the fourth Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day. In 1939 Roosevelt had signed a bill that changed the celebration of Thanksgiving to the third Thursday of November.

1986 - U.S. President Reagan appointed a commission headed by former Sen. John Tower to investigate his National Security Council staff after the Iran-Contra affair.

(Information from <http://www.on-this-day.com>)